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MINUTES

OF THE

Stonington Baptist Association,

HELD AT

Elder SIMEON BROWN'S

MEETING HOUSE

IN

STONINGTON,

October 19

M,DCC,XC.

NEW-LONDON : Printed by T. GREEN & SON.



MINUTES, &c.

TUESDAY, October 19, 1790.

I. **B**ROTHER *Isaac Backus* delivered the introductory sermon from 1 Sam. xxii. 1, 2.

II. After worship proceeded to business.—Brother *Simon Brown* was chosen Moderator, and brother *Valentine W. Rathbun*, Clerk.

III. Letters from the churches were read.

N. B. Ministers names in *italic*. Those to whose names a † is prefixed, were not present. From churches marked thus * we received no letter. Dashes denote no settled minister.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Add.	Dism.	Exclu.	Deceas.	Num.
1. Stonington,	<i>Eleazer Brown</i> ,					
	<i>Peleg Randall</i> ,					
	<i>Jonathan Palmer</i> .		8			92
2. Stonington,	<i>Simeon Brown</i> ,					
	<i>Thomas Miner</i> ,					
	<i>Zebulon Brown</i> ,					
	<i>Simeon Brown</i> , jun.					
	<i>Afa Spalding</i> .	2	3	1	1	125
3. Stonington,	<i>Valentine W. Rathbun</i> ,					
	<i>Sands Niles</i> .	1				46
4. Groton,	<i>Timothy Wightman</i> ,					
	<i>Thomas N. Niles</i> ,					
	<i>Samuel Smith</i> ,					

Benadam

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Add.	Dism.	Excl.	Dece.	Num.
	Benadam Gallup, jun.	1	3		1	156
2. Groton,	Joseph Chapman, jun.					17
Say-Brook,	<i>Eliphalet Lester,</i>					47
Exeter,	Joseph Carter,					24
	<i>Solomon Sprague,</i>					36
	William Hammond,					
	Pardon Tillinghast,	56		2	5	
* So. Kingston,	† <i>Benjamin Weight,</i>					
Church formerly	} ————, }					
of Sou. Kingston,						
now of Richmond	John Webb,					
	Clark Kinyon.	25		1		72
West-Greenwich,	<i>Elisba Green,</i>					
	Benjamin Tillinghast,					
	Nathaniel Fulman.	16	2		2	58
1. Colchester,	<i>Christopher Palmer,</i>					
	Afa Bolles,					
	Abram Randall.	2	4			63
2. Colchester,	<i>Abel Palmer,</i>					
	John Cartey,					
	Jabez Rogers.	1			1	49
Richmond,	—————,					
	Gideon Babcock,					
	Robert Champlin,					
	Sands Perkins.				1	2
Hampton,	—————,					
	Robert Baxter,					
	Nehemiah Dodge,		5			68
Montville,	<i>Reuben Palmer,</i>					
	Jehiel Rogers.					52
	Total,	104	25	5	12	1160

The last mentioned church was received into our fellowship the present year.

IV. Received a letter and minutes from the Warren association, by their messengers, brethren Abner Lewis, and Joseph Grafton.

V. Received a letter from the baptist church of Chatham; also, from a number of brethren at Hampton, requesting supplies.

VI. Appointed brethren Asa Spalding and James Brown to draw a letter to the corresponding associations.

Adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Sermon in the evening by brother Joseph Grafton, from 1 Tim. iv. 8.

Wednesday, October 20th,
Met pursuant to adjournment.

VII. Received the minutes of the baptist association, held at Philadelphia, October 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1789.

VIII. We having received information that there are proposals for reprinting the HOLY BIBLE, in different parts of America;—and viewing it a matter of the highest importance to all denominations of Christians, and truly interesting to posterity, that the sacred volume, to which we all appeal, as the standard of truth, be correct, and the purity of the holy Scriptures preserved; and being requested by the Warren association to unite in presenting an address to Congress on this important subject,—

Voted, That our brethren Timothy Wightman, Simeon Brown, Eleazer Brown, Sands Niles, and Valentine W. Rathbun, be appointed a committee, in behalf of this association, to prepare and transmit a petition to Congress, requesting their attention to the several impressions of the Bible now making; representing the importance of accuracy in

in these impressions; and earnestly praying that they would take such measures, as the constitution may permit, that no edition of the Holy Bible, that only rule of our faith and practice, be published in these United States, without careful inspection, and being certified to be free from error.

IX. Letter to the corresponding associations according to order of yesterday, was brought in, read, &c. and approved.

X. Appointed our brethren Abel Palmer, and Reuben Palmer, messengers to the Warren association; brethren Solomon Sprague, Pardon Tillinghast, and James Sheldon, to Shaftsbury; and brother Valentine W. Rathbun, to that at Philadelphia, and the United Associations in Virginia.

XI. Appointed our brother Sands Niles, and Valentine W. Rathbun, to draw a letter to an association lately formed at Danbury, in this State, desiring union and correspondence with them; and chose brother Eliphalet Lester, our messenger to them, to make known our request at their next annual convention.

XII. Agreed to the following supplies for destitute societies.

Church of Chatham,

Brother Christopher Palmer, 1st Lord's-day in December,
 ——— Reuben Palmer, 1st ——— in February,
 ——— Christopher Palmer, 1st ——— in April,
 ——— Eliphalet Lester, 1st ——— in May,
 ——— Abel Palmer, 2d ——— in June,
 ——— Simeon Brown, 1st ——— in September,

Hampton brethren,

Brother Eleazer Brown, 1st Lord's-day in November,
 ——— Simeon Brown, and }
 ——— Christopher Palmer, } 3d ——— in December,

Church of Hampton,

Brother Eleazer Brown, 1st Lord's-day in May,
 ——— Simeon Brown, 1st ——— in July,
 ——— Christopher

_____ Christopher Palmer, 1st _____ in August,
 _____ Abel Palmer, 3d _____ in November,
 _____ Reuben Palmer, 3d _____ in December,
 Church formerly of South-Kingston, now of Richmond,
 Brother Simeon Brown, 1st Lord's-day in November,
 _____ Eleazer Brown, 2d _____ in July,
 Church of Richmond,
 Brother Simeon Brown, 4th Lord's-day in April,
 _____ Eleazer Brown, 4th _____ in August.

XIII. The circular letter prepared by brother Eleazer Brown, was read and approved.

XIV. Our brethren Solomon Sprague, and James Shelden, are appointed to write the circular letter for next year.

XV. Brother Valentine W. Rathbun, is requested to superintend the printing the minutes.

XVI. Voted that our next association be held at Hampton, the third Tuesday in October, 1791.

(CIRCULAR LETTER.)

THE messengers of the several baptist churches, belonging to the Stonington association, met in Stonington, October 19, 1790;

To the churches with whom they are connected, send Christian salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

THE kind LORD having indulged us with another anniversary interview, we would inform you that we have enjoyed a good degree of harmony in our present meeting; and though we have received good tidings of the marvellous displays of divine grace from some of our churches; yet, we fear that there is too great a declension among us, in general. Suffer us therefore, dear brethren, to remind you of the necessity of a firm attachment to, and practice of the laws, rules, and ordinances of JESUS CHRIST, as the indispensable duty of every Christian. The prevalence of errors, delusions, heresies, and false doctrines at the present day, which introduce contentions, animosities, and

and schisms among professors of Christianity, demand our serious attention. We, who profess to be the disciples of Christ, baptized according to the apostolic order, ought, at this alarming crisis, to arm ourselves with every gospel weapon, and to oppose the enemy, in whatever form or shape he may appear, to lead or divert us from the truth,—“The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” the man of our counsel, and rule of our faith and practice, is a very necessary weapon, in our christian warfare; and that, which, if skilfully handled, may enable us to put the enemy to flight,—That we may be enabled to a proper use of this weapon, the necessity of the personal study of the holy Scriptures is obvious; for “every one of us shall give account of himself to God;” and that we may rightly understand the sacred passage, we are commanded to “ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not;” the key of the sacred cabinet is his,—he “openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.”—But though our understandings may be enlightened, if our daily practice is inconsistent therewith, by countenancing the unfruitful works of darkness, we make ourselves transgressors, and thereby build the things that we once destroyed; for whatsoever is not of faith, is sin; and instead of obeying the command of God, to let our light shine, we veil the light; but if we constantly practice agreeable to the laws, rules, and ordinances of Jesus Christ, according to the primitive order, as exhibited in the Word of God, we may thereby shew forth the praises of him, who hath called us out of darkness, into his marvellous light; and have cause to hope that the blessing of our God, in the out-pouring of his Spirit, will attend us; and that we shall be instrumental of the conversion of sinners from their errors, heresies, and delusions; and thereby put a stop to contentions, schisms, and animosities; which would remind us of that happy era, when the knowledge of the glory of God, shall cover the earth, as the waters fill the sea, and when all shall know the Lord, from the least unto the greatest.

DEAR BRETHREN,

Let us all be engaged to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace, that we may have cause to hope that the God of peace will be with us, and bless us, AMEN.

Signed in behalf of the Association,

SIMPSON BROWN, MODERATOR,
VALENTINE W. RATHBUN, CLERK.



